



## **HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY**

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people may become more vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Be careful about answering your door to strangers, and use a peephole or latch your screen or storm door if possible.

It is also not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of people's generosity during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for bogus charitable causes. Ask for identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used. You might want to make your donation to a recognized charitable organization.

### **WHEN SHOPPING**

- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible
- Stay alert to your surroundings
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages

### **WHILE DRIVING**

- Avoid driving alone, especially at night
- If you shop at night, park in a well-lighted area
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running
- Do not leave packages on the seat of your car
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area
- Ask mall or store security for an escort if your shopping location does not seem safe

If you find our Senior Alerts helpful, you may also wish to subscribe to our Consumer Alerts. You can sign up at <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/subscriptions.shtml>. You can read past consumer alerts at [http://www.oag.state.tx.us/alerts/alerts\\_view.php?type=1](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/alerts/alerts_view.php?type=1).

I send you my very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and for the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" being more prominent than the last name "Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas

**WRITE TO: Greg Abbott, Office of the Attorney General**  
**PO Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548**  
**800-252-8011 or [WWW.OAG.STATE.TX.US](http://WWW.OAG.STATE.TX.US)**